



Francis Collins signs a copy of his book for attendee David Hempton after giving a lecture on DNA as the language of God. The Veritas Forum, which organized the talk, will be sponsoring additional lectures today and tomorrow.

ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

## Kastner Appointed Science Dean

Head of Physics Department Replaces Silbey as the New Dean of Science

By JiHy Kim  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Marc A. Kastner, head of the Department of Physics, will soon be the new dean of science. During his nine years in office, Kastner initiated the new flexible physics degree option, formerly known as Course VIII-B, led the construction of the new physics and spectroscopy lab, and hired about one-third of the current Physics Department faculty.

According to the MIT News Office, Kastner will be taking over from Robert J. Silbey as the new dean of science, effective July 1. Kastner was announced as the new head on Feb. 14, by Provost L. Rafael Reif.

Silbey, who has been serving as dean for the last six-and-a-half years, was scheduled to step down after his

five-year term ended in Dec. 2005. According to Silbey, he agreed to stay on until June 30 at the request of Reif and President Susan Hockfield, "I intend to go back to teaching and continue doing research in chemistry," Silbey said. "I will teach a graduate class in the fall."

As a MIT faculty member for 33 years, Kastner has an extensive educational and administrative background. He enjoys both the educational and administrative aspects of his career.

"When you do these jobs, and you find out that you can help other people, especially young people both the students and the faculty, it's satisfying," Kastner said.

In addition to working with Silbey on the new degree option and

Physics, Department of Material Sciences and Engineering, Spectroscopy, Infrastructure construction taking place in several buildings including Buildings 2, 4, 6, and 8, Kastner was also head of the department during the development and implementation of the Technology Enabled Active Learning classes three years ago. TEAL now serves as the first level option for the 8.01 (Physics I) and 8.02 (Physics II) classes.

Over the past nine years, Kastner has hired a considerable number of young faculty in the physics department, and currently wants to focus on recruiting more women and minorities in the science faculty. As the dean, Kastner said that he intends to

Kastner, Page 14

## Charges Against MIT Students Eliminated

MIT Discipline Committee to Handle Case

By Angeline Wang  
NEWS EDITOR

Felony charges against three MIT students who set off a burglar alarm in the E52 Faculty Club last October were dropped Wednesday by the Middlesex County district attorney's office. The students contend that they were hacking when found by the police. The case will now be handled within the Institute by the Committee on Discipline.

Kristina K. Brown '09, David Nawi G, and Matthew W. Petersen '09 appeared in court Wednesday for what was originally a motion hearing. No motions were heard, according to Steven J. Sack, the attorney for Brown, as the district attorney moved to dismiss the case instead.

The judge, Severin B. Singleton, chose not to dismiss the case himself and had the prosecution file a *nolle prosequi* order, indicating that they would not move forward on the charges, Sack said.

"The Commonwealth has spoken to [R.] Greg Morgan, General Counsel of MIT," the orders for Nawi states. "Mr. Morgan on behalf of MIT has requested the case be dismissed, so MIT may handle this matter in-

ternally and administratively, as they have done in the past in similar situations. The Commonwealth also spoke with Chief [John] DiFava of the MIT Police who indicated that the MIT Police would be in agreement with a dismissal."

According to the district attorney's press office, the language for Brown's and Petersen's *nolle prosequi* orders had similar language.

Morgan and DiFava did not return calls for comment. Brown declined to comment about the case, because of the upcoming CoD hearings. According to DiFava in a previous interview, as a matter of process, when a case comes up before the CoD, the officers involved could be called on to testify.

The MIT News Office released a statement: "After further discussions with the Middlesex County district attorney's office, MIT, and counsel for the students, this matter will now be addressed through MIT's internal disciplinary procedures, rather than through further court proceedings."

"The defendants are gratified that the district attorney's office chose to

Hackers, Page 10

### In Short

¶ **Today is MacVicar Day**, an event that explores teaching and learning practices. A roundtable discussion on experiences in education will be held today at 3:30 p.m. in the Stata Center (Room 32-141). The new MacVicar Faculty Fellows will be announced after the meeting.

¶ **So Much So Fast**, a film about Stephen Heywood, who was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS), will be shown by LSC next Thursday, March 8 at 8:00 p.m. in the Wong Auditorium in E51. Ste-

phen's father, MIT Professor John Heywood, will introduce the film and answer questions afterwards. Admission is free, with a \$5 suggested donation for the local ALS Foundation.

¶ **Global MIT**, a Web site and database that informs users about MIT's international activities, is being launched internally. MIT community members are encouraged to update events in the system. The site is at <http://global.mit.edu>

Send news information and tips to [news@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@the-tech.mit.edu).

## Douglas Ross SM '54

Douglas Ross SM '54 passed away on Jan. 31 after a fall at the Brookhaven at Lexington care community, according to *The Boston Globe*. He was 77.

A lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Ross was well-known for having invented the Automatically Programmed Tool computer language while simultaneously learning and teaching at MIT, according to the *Globe*. The *Globe* reported that he was also the founder of a software engineering company, SofTech. He also coined the term "computer-aided design," according to the *Globe*.

Ross grew up in Canandaigua, N.Y., although he was born in China. He went to Oberlin College, where he married Patricia Mott. After graduation, he came to MIT, according to the *Globe*.

In 1954, he earned a master's degree in electrical engineering and worked on the Whirlwind computer, according to the *Globe*. That computer was invented by the MIT Digital Computer Laboratory and, according to an article in the April 22, 1964 issue of *The Tech*, "was intended for applications to science, engineering, and experiments for the processing of air defense information."

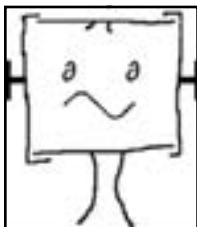
In a 1984 interview with the Charles Babbage Institute that was quoted in the *Globe*, Ross said, "I used to say I was a pure mathematician by training, but an engineer by heart because I discovered what engineering was: Get in there and make it work and understand as much as you can; do things systematically, but make it work."

Ross is survived by his wife, three daughters, two sisters, two granddaughters, and a grandson, according to the *Globe*.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Haiyao Huang G (bottom) throws Eli B. Stickgold '09 (top) during the American Jiu Jitsu belt test on Wednesday, Feb. 28 in the DuPont Wrestling Room.



Comics

ARTS

Emedio's Italian dining features reasonable prices and a romantic milieu

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Ethics panels limit university research around country

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WORLD & NATION

Thirteen Charged in ‘Pervasive’ Insider Trading Ring

By Jenny Anderson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

Thirteen people were accused Thursday of participating in a major insider trading ring, including a Morgan Stanley compliance official, a UBS research executive and traders for hedge funds and brokerage firms.

Nine of the defendants have been arrested, and four have pleaded guilty to charges ranging from securities fraud, conspiracy to commit securities fraud and bribery.

Linda C. Thomsen, chief of enforcement at the Securities and Exchange Commission, described the scheme as one of the most “pervasive Wall Street insider trading rings since the days of Ivan Boesky and Dennis Levine.”

The investigation was conducted by the FBI, the SEC and the office of the U.S. attorney in Manhattan.

The SEC accused 14 people of making illicit profits totaling more than \$15 million, while the federal criminal charges cite illicit profits of \$8 million from 13 individuals.

Officials said the case involved two different schemes that were linked through one hedge fund trader.

House Passes Bill That Helps Unions Organize

By Steven Greenhouse

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Defying a veto threat from the White House, the House of Representatives on Thursday approved legislation that would make it far easier for unions to organize workers.

The bill, whose prospects for enactment are troubled at best, would enable employees at a given workplace to unionize as soon as a majority signed cards saying they favored a union. Under current law, companies have a right to insist on a secret-ballot election determining their workers’ choice. Labor leaders and many Democrats say such elections are often poisoned by employer coercion and intimidation.

Thursday’s vote, which followed a fierce debate, was 241-185, largely along party lines. Thirteen Republicans voted for the bill, and two Democrats against.

The measure is organized labor’s No. 1 legislative priority, and Democrats call it vital to rebuilding unions and bolstering the nation’s middle class.

Children’s Cold Medicines Draw FDA Safety Review

By Gardiner Harris

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Federal drug regulators have started a broad review of the safety of popular cough and cold remedies meant for children, a top official said Thursday.

The official, Dr. Charles J. Ganley, director of the office of nonprescription drug products at the Food and Drug Administration, said in an interview that the agency was “revisiting the risks and benefits of the use of these drugs in children” and that “we’re particularly concerned about the use of these drugs in children less than 2 years of age.”

In high doses, cold medicines can affect the heart’s electrical system, leading to arrhythmias. Some medicines affect the blood vessels and in high doses have been associated with hypertension and stroke. In rare cases, children have been injured even when given recommended doses.

In a recent study of hospital emergency room records from 2004 and 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that at least 1,519 children who were 2 years old had suffered serious health problems after being treated with common cough and cold medicines.

Former Taliban Minister Gets Arrested in Pakistan Monday

By Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

The former Taliban defense minister was arrested in Pakistan on Monday, the day of U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney’s visit, two government officials said Thursday. He is the most important Taliban member to be captured since the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

The man, Mullah Obaidullah, was a senior leader of the Afghan insurgency, which has battled U.S. and NATO forces with increasing intensity over the last year.

He is one of the inner core around Mullah Muhammad Omar, the Taliban leader. The leadership is believed to operate from the relative safety of Quetta, Pakistan, where Obaidullah was arrested.

It was not clear whether he was picked up before, during or after Cheney’s visit. But the timing may be significant because Cheney’s mission was intended to press Pakistan to do more to crack down on members of the Taliban and al-Qaida who use Pakistan as a sanctuary.

Pakistan has come under rising criticism from U.S. and NATO of-

ficials for acting against the Taliban and al-Qaida only under pressure, conducting operations or making arrests timed for high-level official visits, then backing off.

While Obaidullah’s detention may be a sign of a new commitment by Pakistan to move against the Taliban leadership, the arrest also seemed to confirm Western and Afghan intelligence reports that the Taliban were using Pakistan, and particularly Quetta, to organize their insurgency.

Pakistani officials have strenuously denied that the Taliban leadership is based in Pakistan, and there was no official announcement of the detention. But two government officials confirmed the arrest.

A NATO spokesman in Afghanistan, Col. Tom Collins, said he was not aware of any arrest. U.S. government officials in Washington confirmed the capture, but cautioned that the arrest was unlikely to deal a significant setback to the insurgents.

“He’s a big fish, but nobody around here thinks this will deal a permanent blow to the operations of the Taliban,” said one U.S. government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the arrest had not been for-

mally announced.

Last year, NATO forces in southern Afghanistan bore the brunt of a resurgent Taliban. They have lost 85 service members since taking over command of southern Afghanistan in August, in suicide bombings, ambushes and often heavy fighting. Commanders and diplomats say it has become increasingly clear that control of the Taliban fighters traced back to Pakistan.

Many U.S. and NATO officials expect the fighting in the spring to be even more intense.

President Bush sent an unusually tough message to President Pervez Musharraf, timed to coincide with Cheney’s visit, senior administration officials said.

Pakistani officials answer the criticism by pointing out that their own military has suffered more than any other, losing more than 600 soldiers in fighting with the militants, before the campaigns bogged down and the government cut peace deals with some tribal leaders.

Pakistani intelligence services also assisted the U.S. military in tracking another top Taliban official, Mullah Akhtar Muhammad Osmani.

Murder Case Highlights Risk of Selling Marijuana, Even Legally

By Kirk Johnson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DENVER

Ken Gorman, an aging missionary of marijuana, was found murdered in his home here two weeks ago. The unsolved crime is exposing the tangled threads at the borderland of the legal and illegal drug worlds he inhabited.

Gorman, who was 60, legally provided marijuana to patients under Colorado’s medical marijuana law, but he also openly preached the virtues of illegal use, and even ran for governor in the 1990s on a pro-drug platform.

In recent years, he had grown frightened as the mainstream medicine of cannabis care bumped against the unregulated and violent terrain of the illicit drug market. He had been robbed more than a dozen times in his home on Denver’s west

side, had recently gotten a gun and also talked of installing a steel door and gates.

“Ken was really fed up with the barrage of robberies and he told me it would never happen again,” said Timothy Tipton, a friend and fellow medical marijuana supplier, who said Gorman showed him the gun about two months ago.

Some legal experts say Gorman’s death could lead to a reconsideration of how medical marijuana is administered here and elsewhere. Providers are often left exposed and vulnerable because of the nation’s conflicting drug laws, with marijuana use illegal under federal law but legalized for some medicinal purposes here and in 10 other states.

Since 1997, after the first medical marijuana law was passed in California, as many as 20 legal marijuana providers have been

killed around the country, mostly in robberies, said Allen St. Pierre, the executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, or NORML, a nonprofit advocacy group in Washington.

Some in law enforcement, including Colorado’s attorney general, John W. Suthers, say the Gorman killing illuminates more clearly than ever that crime and marijuana cannot be disentangled.

“Mr. Gorman showed that the law is abused and can be abused,” said Nate Strauch, a spokesman for Suthers.

Many people in the medical marijuana supply system say the central risk comes down to the fact that they work in the shadows, where law enforcement officials are often either conflicted or hostile and crime is rampant.

WEATHER

Snow to Be Washed Out

By Roberto Rondonelli

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Once strong, the low pressure centered over the Midwest is now an old storm, slowly filling up and loosing power. During the peak of its activity though, the low produced a potpourri of bad weather — tornadoes, hailstorms, and snow from Missouri to Illinois. The cold front, part of the low, will continue making its way towards the Atlantic, affecting Florida and the southern part of the East Coast with thunderstorms.

Although the main low is weakening, a secondary low will pass along the eastern coast, organizing the moisture carried by the primary low into a relatively strong and rapidly developing system. Temperatures will remain mostly above zero during the passage of this secondary low, so precipitation is expected to fall mostly as rain. However, early this morning precipitation will be in the form of snow and sleet with a possible accumulation of around an inch. Before noon, the relatively warm air will make the precipitation fall as rain.

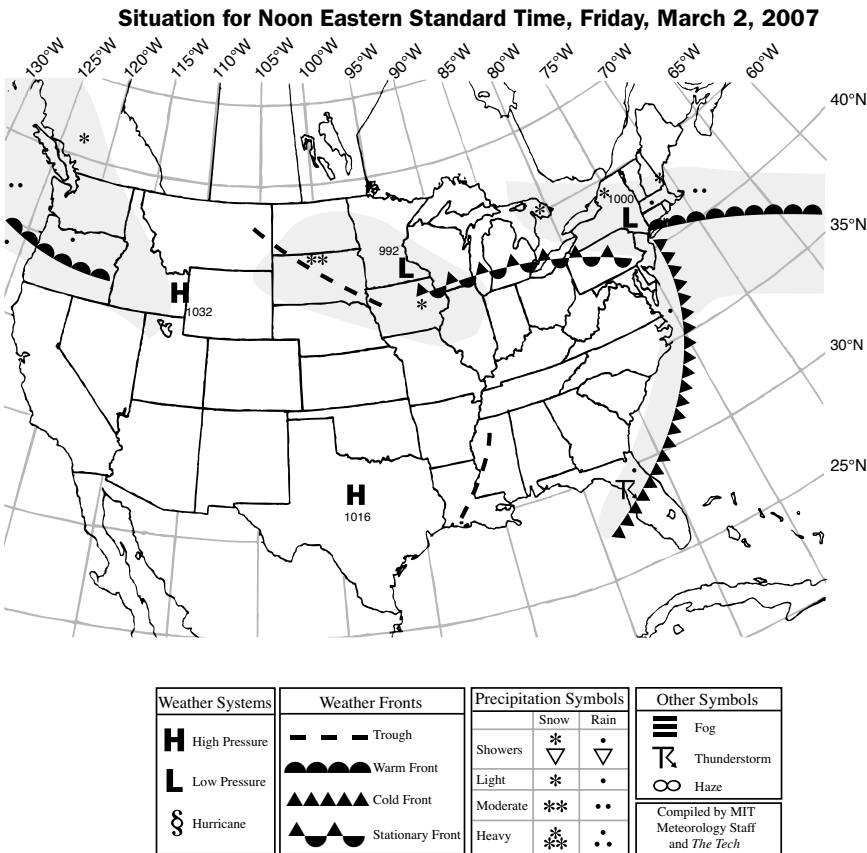
Extended Forecast

**Today:** Snow and sleet in the morning, changing to rain before noon. High 39°F (4°C).

**Tonight:** Rain tapering off in the evening. Chance of flurries. Low 35°F (2°C).

**Tomorrow:** Mostly cloudy, chance of scattered showers. Warm. High 49°F (9°C).

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy. High 44°F (7°C).





# Army Hospital Commander Gets Fired For Poor Outpatient Care

By David S. Cloud  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WASHINGTON

The two-star general in charge of Walter Reed Army Medical Center was relieved of command on Thursday, following disclosures that wounded soldiers being treated as outpatients were living in dilapidated quarters and enduring long waits for treatment.

Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman, a physician and a graduate of West Point, was fired because Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey “had lost trust and confidence” in his ability to make improvements in outpatient care at Walter Reed, the Army said in a brief statement.

The revelations about conditions at the hospital, one of the Army’s best known and busiest centers for treating soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, have embarrassed the Army and prompted two investigations, several congressional inquiries and a rush to clean up the accommodations for outpatients, where residents lived with mold on the walls, stained carpets and other problems.

A series of disclosures published prominently in the Washington Post about the living conditions, the red tape that ensnared treatment, and other serious problems have challenged the notion promoted for years by the Army — especially since the war in Iraq — that wounded soldiers receive unparalleled care at Walter Reed.

Army officials have defended the treatment provided to most patients at Walter Reed, especially the most serious cases, those admitted to inpatient wards on the hospital’s campus a few miles from the center of Washington.

But they have acknowledged that the large number of wounded from Iraq and Afghanistan, currently around 650 patients, has strained doctors, nurses and other care providers and forced them to rely more heavily on overflow facilities to house outpatients who must remain near the hospital for treatment.

Officials refused to provide the specific reasons for Weightman’s dismissal.

Treatment of wounded soldiers also has been spotlighted recently in

a documentary recounting the treatment received by the former ABC News anchorman Bob Woodruff, who was wounded in Iraq last year. Woodruff contrasted his care with that of soldiers, finding that Veterans Administration regional medical centers provide retired soldiers with good care but that local VA hospitals are less skilled at dealing with complex problems like traumatic brain injuries.

The Army has admitted in recent weeks that the system it uses to decide whether wounded soldiers who have been moved to outpatient status will be able to return to active duty takes too long in many cases and have promised to make changes in the system. At Walter Reed, the process has taken an average of over 200 days, a source of frustration to soldiers and families who are awaiting decisions about what benefits they will receive if they retire.

Harvey told reporters Thursday that the Army was also examining conditions at other medical facilities, both in the United States and abroad. “We’ll fix as we find things wrong,” Harvey said.

# Some Libyans Seeking Economic Growth Without Political Change

By Michael Slackman  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

TRIPOLI, LIBYA

For more than three decades, Libya has been an experiment in one man’s ideology. The result is a country with few functioning institutions, an unreliable legal system, inadequate schools and hospitals, and a population isolated and unprepared for modernity.

That is the assessment of some of the government’s own consultants.

Yet the leader, Col. Moammar Gadhafi, will be holding a huge celebration on Friday to observe the 30th anniversary of the system that has led Libya to its current crisis. So as efforts to change get under way, pushed by a small group of reformers, talk is restricted to economic change.

The question on many people’s minds is how that can be carried out without political change as well.

“Do you think we can create social and economic prosperity without political reform?” Ahmed Shebani, a local businessman, asked at an economic conference last week.

The Libyan political system is

centralized and decentralized. Gadhafi, called Brother Leader, says that representative democracy is a fraud and that each citizen must participate in the state. So there are 3,000 committees that meet twice a year. There is a 3,000-member council made up of the heads of those committees that assigns priorities and budgets. There are committees on health and finance, as well as local committees that coordinate the national committees.

Even though Libya is the wealthiest country in North Africa, roads often do not get paved, housing built or hospitals stocked. In fact, it is far behind its neighbors in almost everything related to human development, especially education, the government consultants say.

The government hired the Monitor Group, a consulting business based in Cambridge, Mass., to assess the economy and chart a path forward. Challenges were found in every sector.

The consultants are here as guests of the nascent reform movement, and they appeared at a conference last week organized by Gadhafi’s

son Seif el-Islam Gadhafi, the main force behind the drive to retool the economy.

All stepped quietly around the question of true political reform.

“Look, we have all reached the conclusion that political change is impossible,” said a former political prisoner who like other dissidents here was afraid to be identified for fear of punishment. “It is impossible to change the system. So the only thing we can do is support the initiatives taken by someone like Seif and hope that it leads eventually to where we want things to go.”

It is hard to see how change can come quickly in such an undeveloped economy and in a system whose leaders have been resistant to change.

Officials here announced recently that they would eliminate 120,000 government jobs as part of a far-reaching effort to restructure the ailing economy. Then they announced that they were not immediately ending the jobs but would give people three years’ salary while they looked for work in a private sector that barely exists.

# Iran’s President to Visit Saudi Arabia To Discuss Crises in the Middle East

By Hassan M. Fattah and Nazila Fathi  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran will visit Saudi Arabia on Saturday for a summit meeting with King Abdullah intended to tackle the Middle East’s growing sectarian and political crises, Iranian officials said Thursday.

The visit, Ahmadinejad’s first state visit to Saudi Arabia, was initiated by Iran, said a former Saudi official with knowledge of the discussions. It marks the culmination of months of diplomatic efforts by the two regional powers, as well as other Arab countries, to settle the political standoff in Lebanon, cool sectarian violence in Iraq and possibly even avert a looming confrontation with the United States.

To some the trip is seen as a defensive move by an increasingly isolated Iran while to others it marks the start of another public relations offensive for the bellicose president.

“When the views of the two countries get closer, they can play an in-

fluent role in the chaotic situation of the Islamic world and the Middle East,” Mohammad Hosseini, Iran’s ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told the official Iranian news agency, IRNA. “Unrest is increasing in the Middle East and if the situation continues, it will become a threat for all the countries in the region.”

A Saudi official confirmed Ahmadinejad’s visit, which will include a meeting with Abdullah on Sunday, but the official Saudi news agency, SPA, made no mention of the trip, adding weight to the theory that the visit was an Iranian initiative.

Rumors of a likely meeting between the two leaders had been circulating in Saudi Arabia for the past week, several analysts said, but the exact date appears to have been set on Thursday, just days before the United Nations is expected to begin deliberating tougher sanctions on Iran for its continued uranium enrichment efforts in violation of U.N. resolutions.

The announcement also comes just two days after the United States agreed in principle to hold a high-level meeting with Iraq’s neighbors,

including Iran and Syria, to help stabilize Iraq, setting the stage for the highest-level contact between American and Iranian officials in more than two years.

The American decision to participate in that Iraqi regional meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, on March 10 was unconnected to the Saudi-Iranian summit talks, American officials said. They claimed to be untroubled by the summit plans despite their strong mistrust of Ahmadinejad.

Abdullah and Ahmadinejad are expected to discuss ways of ending the political standoff in Lebanon between the American-backed government of Fouad Siniora and Hezbollah, which is supported by Iran. Both countries are also concerned that growing sectarian tensions in Iraq, Lebanon and elsewhere in the region could fuel further instability.

“The last visit by an Iranian official to Riyadh was by national security chief Ali Larijani last month, but the Iranians were left feeling quite unsatisfied,” said Adel al-Toraifi, a Riyadh-based Saudi analyst with close ties to the government.

## Caribbean Islands Check For Stolen Passports

By Marc Lacey  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

All travelers to the Caribbean for the Cricket World Cup in March and April will have their passports checked against an international database of lost or stolen travel documents, making the islands the first region in the world to put such a system in operation.

Before the nine countries involved in the World Cup along with the Bahamas jointly began operating the screening system, only Switzerland was checking all incoming passports against Interpol’s database of 13.4 million lost or stolen travel documents.

“The Caribbean is living proof that it can be done,” Ronald K. Noble, the secretary-general of Interpol, said in a telephone interview Thursday from New York. “It’s not a question of money. It’s not a question of population size. It’s not a question of the size of the police force.”

For years, Noble has been leading an effort to link Interpol’s 186 member countries to the database.

It has been a slow process. Just 120 of the 186 member countries supply information to Interpol on stolen or lost passports in their jurisdictions. The United States, for example, runs fewer than 100 checks per month against the database, although it also uses some of the Interpol data for investigations.

## Google Finding It Easier To Court Small Media Companies

By Miguel Helft  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

SAN FRANCISCO

Google has been frustrated in its efforts to reach comprehensive deals with major studios and networks to put their video on YouTube. Meanwhile, it is forming partnerships with hundreds of smaller media companies that see value — or at least a valuable experiment — in contributing to the site.

Some of the partnerships have been announced publicly. On Monday, for instance, YouTube said that it had teamed up with the National Basketball Association to create a channel where the league would show authorized clips and where fans could upload short videos showcasing their best moves.

A day later, YouTube said it had reached a deal with an independent label, Wind-up Records, to stream music videos and allow YouTube users to incorporate music tracks in their own videos.

But YouTube says most of its licensing deals have been done quietly. It says it has firmed up more than 1,000 partnerships with content owners ranging from the Sundance Channel to small independent video producers.

Without specifying how many of those deals have been signed since their site was acquired by Google last fall, YouTube officials say they are adding more than 200 media partners a quarter.

## McCain and Obama Strike Deal on Public Financing

By David D. Kirkpatrick  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WASHINGTON

Sen. John McCain joined Sen. Barack Obama on Thursday in promising to accept a novel fundraising truce if each man wins his party’s presidential nomination.

The promises by McCain, R-Ariz., and Obama, D-Ill., are an effort to resuscitate part of the ailing public-financing system for presidential campaigns.

In every election since Watergate, candidates have received limited sums of taxpayer money on the condition that they abstain from raising or spending any more. But this year, the leading candidates are all sidestepping the system in a competition to raise far more in private donations: more than \$500 million each, according to most projections, compared with \$150 million in potential public financing.

But there is a chance that the obituaries for the public system may be premature. On Thursday, a spokesman for McCain said that he would take up Obama on a proposal for an accord between the two major party nominees to rely just on public financing for the general election.

Such a pact would eliminate any financial edge one candidate might have and limit each campaign to \$85 million. The two candidates would have to return the private donations that they had collected.

## Poll Finds Strong Support For Universal Health Insurance

By Robin Toner and Janet Elder  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

A majority of Americans say the federal government should guarantee health insurance to every American, especially children, and are willing to pay higher taxes to do it, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll.

While the war in Iraq remains the overarching issue in the early stages of the 2008 campaign, access to affordable health care is at the top of the public’s domestic agenda, ranked as far more important than immigration, cutting taxes or promoting traditional values. Only 24 percent said they were satisfied with President Bush’s handling of the health insurance issue, despite his recent initiatives, and 62 percent said the Democrats — not the Republicans — were more likely to improve the health care system.

Americans showed a striking willingness in the poll to make tradeoffs to guarantee health insurance for all, including paying as much as \$500 more in taxes a year and forgoing future tax cuts.

But the same divisions that doomed the last attempt at creating universal health insurance, during President Bill Clinton’s administration, are still apparent. Americans remain divided, largely along party lines, over whether the government should require everyone to participate in a national health care plan, and over whether the government would do a better job than the private insurance industry in providing coverage.

OPINION



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Corrections

The author of the Feb. 27 letter “Threat of Eminent Domain Overstated” is Kelley Brown MCP '84, not '04.

A statement in the Feb. 27 article “Forum Features Controversial Speakers” was inaccurate. “Issues addressed in the question and answer session included Weiss’s denial of the Holocaust ...” should have read “Issues addressed in the question and answer session included whether Weiss had ever denied the Holocaust ...”

In the Feb. 23 article “Used Grease to Power Shuttles,” the statement that the University of New Hampshire biodiesel program failed to meet safety standards was incorrect. Actually, the UNH program has not failed any standards. In addition, because of an editing error, it appeared that Amanda C. Graham said that same statement. In fact, Graham was never interviewed and is not “helping Biodiesel@MIT meet safety standards ...” This erroneous information was obtained from another source.

Letters To The Editor

MIT Complicit in Holocaust Denial

My name is Noel (Noah) Elman, I am a post-doctoral associate at MIT. My wife and I recently moved from Israel to do research at this famous institution about 7 months ago. I am compelled to write this letter as I see it as my moral obligation to convey my deepest ever possible disappointment at MIT after the Forum titled “Foreign Policy and Social Justice: A Jewish View, a Muslim View” was held in this prestigious institution.

All of my life I dreamed of coming to do research at MIT. All of my life, I dreamed of sharing the rooms of this renowned institute with the people that have been able to change the world, my heroes. People that have constantly thought of humanity. People that have intimately contemplated the past, and have strived for a brighter future. People that want to make a profound difference. And I have been blessed to do research with an amazing faculty, amazing students, amazing co-workers with strong work ethics, with strong belief in humanity. My dream of being part of this idyllic place was happening, was really taking place, and it was beautiful.

Today my dream has been completely shattered into small and insignificant pieces, fragments and shrapnel incrustated in my heart. My dream has been damaged beyond repair. The strongest sorrow and disappointment has invaded every single cell of my body, my mind, and my soul after this monstrous MIT-spon-

sored episode. My dream has become the worst of my nightmares.

The only words that continue resonating in my mind are “why” and “how;” over and over again creating this endless and hurtful cacophony. Why does MIT, the place of so many dreams, decide to hurt humanity so much? And how did the unthinkable occur?, leaving the last shred of hope torn into small twisting hot metals, full of barbwire, full of suffocating smoke, full of faces of children full of sorrow, praying to G-D, praying for G-D, for humanity, and praying to History not to ever forget them.

Dismay, sorrow do I feel for what has happened in this institution: by honoring these degenerate monsters; by promulgating the lies of destruction; and by committing the worst horrible sin of all: teaching the lies to the brightest and bravest generations of the future.

MIT has left the door ajar to listen to these monsters that deny the history of my people, the existence of my family, the existence of the worst ever crime in the entire human history.

It is so painful that I feel internally repulsed and disgusted to witness this insane reality.

I am compelled to say until the last bit of strength left in my life that:

The Holocaust happened, six million Jews died. And we mourned, mourn, and will always mourn, and we shall never forget what happened, or collaborate with our silence, or with any form of passiveness. And we shall never ever forgive.

MIT has undeniably become an accomplice. Dr. Hockfield, as the head of this institution, unfortunately you have undeniably be-

come responsible and accountable for what has happened.

This is not just another controversial forum, this is not a mishap that slipped through the cracks. The slavery and destruction of my people has been promoted and accepted in the rooms of this famous institution, accepted as a form of controversy. The distorted academic pretext led to the claim that this is just another democratic discussion in a vast sea of ideas. The destruction of my people has been promoted for discussion as mere exchanges in points of view, shamefully sponsored by one of the most scientifically advanced institutions on Earth.

MIT has damaged its reputation irreversibly, and undeniably desecrated its most fundamental mission: educating their children.

It is not possible now to heal the wound, but to treat the deep scar, and only do what is right: Teaching The Truth about the Holocaust, Eradicating its Denial; Opening an investigative commission to understand why and how MIT became an accomplice of this monstrous event. And humbly requesting your public apology.

Noel Elman, PhD  
Postdoctoral Associate

Wyne Supports One-Sided Debate

Imagine that you could pick two speakers to come to MIT to share their views on the

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Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Kohli.

**Dissents** are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

*The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author’s name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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# Letters To The Editor, Continued

Letters, from Page 4

contentious subject of abortion. Who would you pick, and what types of views would these people hold? If you're like most rational, intelligent people you'd pick one pro-life speaker and one pro-choice speaker, to show both sides of the issue and to generate genuine dialogue throughout the student body.

However, if your name was Ali S. Wyne, you'd actually choose two pro-life speakers: one Muslim, and one Jew.

Wyne's column in last Friday's issue of *The Tech* defending his choice of speakers on Israel is ridiculous. It comes to the conclusion that we can portray only one side of the debate (anti-Israeli and anti-Zionist) simply because the speakers are of different religions. Wyne even has the chutzpah to say he's increasing the dialogue on campus. Yeah, right.

Ben Greenberg  
*Greenberg writes a blog on Jewish life at Indiana University, where he is a student.*

## Silence is the Problem

I share many of the concerns voiced by alumnus Barun Singh in last week's *Tech* ("The Other Side to Racism"), but disagree with Mr. Singh's diagnosis.

The problem of silence and reduced discussion because of fear on issues such as race is important and far-reaching. An academic institution in particular requires the free flow of ideas, and importantly the ability to disagree and argue as a path towards finding better solutions. In some ways, the silence around race or diversity issues more generally becomes its own problem preventing progress on those very issues.

The example of the GSC Diversity Committee resolution raised by Mr. Singh is a good one. Few would argue against giving the graduate student community a voice in the many Institute decisions regarding recruitment and retention of graduate students and efforts to promote a more diverse community. That, in essence, is the goal of the proposed GSC Diversity Committee.

That graduate students who share this goal felt silenced from suggesting improvements in how the GSC actually works towards it is an indicator of the poor climate for discussing these issues at MIT — an indicator of how much work needs to be done.

The "sided" conceptualization of the resolution in particular, and these types of problems more generally, along with the entailed personalizing of the participants as either racist, non-racist, race-baiter, etc. belies social reality and stymies problem solving.

Holding differing views on how to best represent graduate student interests in MIT's diversity efforts makes students neither racists nor race-baiters. And the differences get resolved through discussion, not name-calling. In this recent case, the common goal and interest of all graduate students at MIT were ill-served by the silence and lack of discussion that resulted. But honestly, the damaging silence that results from a charge of "racist," whether the charge is voiced, perceived, or just feared, is hardly re-

paired by a "race-baiter" riposte.

The solution is in working towards more discussion, more voices, more constructive and respectful argument, not less. Getting there won't happen by accident or by fortuitous social drift, but rather by the concerted efforts of members of the community. Organizing such efforts would improve their likely effectiveness - again a fundamental goal of the proposed GSC Diversity Committee.

It is clear that should the GSC choose to form such a committee, promoting more communication and even difficult discussions among graduate students, graduate student groups, and the MIT community in general would need to be a major focus of its efforts.

Brian Rubineau '93  
*Rubineau is a member of the GSC Task Force on Diversity and the GSC ad hoc Diversity Committee.*

## Singh Ignores Prevalence of Racism

For many underrepresented minority individuals, America has never been the "land of opportunity" that other members of our society would claim that it to be. The opportunity to enter MIT, specifically, and higher education, generally, isn't a guaranteed life step for many of us. Moreover, the chances of an African American, Latino American, or Native American entering professorship are well below those of individuals who are not Native American, Latino American, or African American.

In the Feb. 23 issue of *The Tech*, Barun Singh states that "Professor James Sherley's hunger strike" and "charges of racism against MIT" were the catalysts for a conversation about race at MIT. Although these have been significant events, it must be pointed out that many people within the underrepresented minority student/faculty/administrative community at MIT (and even individuals outside this community) have spent years fighting the still present and dangerous inequalities that exist at MIT and in higher education. From Clarence Williams, to Shirley Jackson, to Desiree Ramirez — scores of people have faithfully dedicated precious time at MIT to addressing the very prevalent inadequacies related to student body racial equality, faculty racial composition, and the prevalence of attitudes about race that often serve to ignore the needs of underrepresented minority groups rather than make things equal. Professor Sherley, not to diminish his actions and statements, was not the first member of the MIT community to confront racial inequality (and, sadly, he will not be the last).

In his article, Mr. Singh made the argument that Professor Sherley and the GSC diversity committee have been "race-baiting" and using "racial hyperbole." It is not clear how such an argument can be justified. Race is a critical component of Professor Sherley's social identity in the United States, for which he has no control. Additionally, an individual can relate the struggle of their present day situation to the hardships of similar people in the past, but calling this comparison "racial hyperbole" is not necessarily accurate. If the articulation

of the relationship between present and past strikes up emotion, so be it, but that does not take away from the fact that a situation like Professor Sherley's extends from the rootedness of years of oppression of certain groups of people in the United States. For someone else (in this case Mr. Singh) to describe Professor Sherley's relationship to race as one that can be controlled (i.e. "injected") is an absurd assertion. In reality, Professor Sherley's actions and articulation of present day struggle are a legitimate continuation of struggles that his ancestors undertook decades and centuries ago.

It should be noted that Professor Sherley is not the first underrepresented minority scholar/faculty member to be brushed away from academic departments at the Institute. Read Dr. Clarence William's book: *Technology and the Dream*. It offers the reader various glimpses of African American scholars who have entered and exited the doors of MIT. Some state very candidly that certain departments at MIT did not want them to become tenured faculty or faculty at all.

Mr. Singh states in his article that "minorities fighting racism cannot afford to squander the good will of those sympathetic [I think he meant "empathetic"] to their cause" and that "MIT routinely conducts surveys to gauge the sentiment of minorities in the service of promoting a safe and welcoming environment for all members of the community." Anyone who is "sympathetic" ("empathetic") to what underrepresented minorities are fighting will not leave the "bandwagon" when confronted with their own personal inadequacies or fears. About the "surveys" — if they existed, they can not address, in any substantial way, the inadequacies that are socially constructed within the MIT community or within the greater realm of higher education.

Although Barun Singh articulates his points with clarity and honesty, he is void of a more nuanced understanding of the history (and present climate) of race at MIT. Professor Sherley's appeal to the common sense of his colleagues and America is a testament that the roots of bigotry and inequality have not been dug up from the soil of the American psyche. Mr. Singh's assertion that he and others might be "afraid" to share their opinions about racial inequalities is not a testament to their vulnerability but a warning that they must more closely examine and become intimate with the history and current social/political climate of "race" in the United States.

David S. Lowry '07

## UNH Biodiesel Efforts Safe

In Kristina Holton's article "Used Grease to Power ShuttlesBiodiesel@MIT in Top 10 For mtvU, GE Ecomagination Challenge" on Feb. 23, she writes, "Amanda C. Graham, student administrator for the Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, said she is helping Biodiesel@MIT meet safety standards that similar biodiesel programs, such as one at the University of New Hampshire, have failed to meet."

Biodiesel efforts at the University of New

Hampshire (UNH) meet all safety standards and requirements; they always have, and they always will. We consider safety along with sustainability right from the start as we plan and implement such efforts. Therefore, I urge you to run a correction to this inaccuracy in *The Tech*.

UNH is in the process of setting up a biodiesel microprocessor at one of our on-campus farms to convert used vegetable oil from our on-campus dining areas into biodiesel for fueling off-road equipment, such as tractors, and for heating greenhouses or farm buildings. Along with working with our UNH Office of Environmental Health and Safety, we and the company from whom we purchased the microprocessor - MPB Bioenergy, LLC, the same company supplying MIT's new processor - are working closely with not one but two Fire Protection Engineers, with local and state fire marshals, with state electrical and plumbing inspectors, and with our own UNH Facilities to ensure that our set-up is safe and efficient and that it meets all state and local codes. We are investing the time to create a model that can be replicated by others in the state.

Ironically, Ms. Holton's article fails to mention one of the larger real world issues regarding local production and use of biodiesel — namely, the federal and state excise tax implications of the use of biodiesel in licensed on-road vehicles. MIT may wish to check the tax regulations regarding use of its produced biodiesel in on-road vehicles. The biodiesel produced at UNH will be used in off-road agricultural equipment or wholesaled to licensed fuel distributors.

On the consumption side, UNH has a track record of safe large-scale biodiesel use. In coordination with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), we host the first state-owned biodiesel fuel site. Since August 2006, we have begun conversion of our 60+ diesel transit vehicles and on-campus diesel fleet to B20. Our transit fleet, which provides just under 1 million passenger trips per year, leads the way statewide in using B20 and compressed natural gas in the majority of its vehicles. And UNH has received of \$3 million of federal funds for its alternative fuel fleet programs. All of these efforts are part of UNH's Climate Education Initiative and the University's commitment to being a Climate Protection Campus that recently signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. I would invite you and your readers to learn more at <http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu>.

While I'm excited to read about all the wonderful biodiesel and other sustainability efforts on-going at MIT — and applaud your successes — I'm disappointed to see this inaccurate "ding" against UNH. Universities have been leaders in moving towards the use of alternative fuels — and we break ground dealing with code, finance and research issues every day. We should share our lessons learned with each other and reward our mutual successes.

Since I'm sure *The Tech* is committed to fact-checked and well-researched reporting, I do hope to see a correction to this article run soon.

Sara M. Cleaves  
*Cleaves is associate director of the UNH Office of Sustainability.*

Roe v. Wade

Darfur

War with Iran

Gay Marriage

Give a damn?

Do something about it!  
*letters@the-tech.mit.edu*

ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

Mesmerizing Mozart,  
Spellbinding  
Shostakovich

Audubon String Quartet Lives up to Its Fame

By Bogdan Fedeles  
STAFF WRITER

Audubon String Quartet  
Kresge Auditorium  
Friday, Feb. 23, 2007

Last Friday, MIT chamber music enthusiasts had the special opportunity to hear the highly acclaimed Audubon String Quartet perform in Kresge Auditorium. In addition to Mozart's string quintet K.515, the program also included two string quartets by Mozart (K.458) and Shostakovich (No.5). The captivating performances, the intimate music, the large and enthusiastic audience, all contributed to a decidedly worthwhile musical experience.

The Audubon String Quartet, founded in 1974, quickly established itself internationally, winning string quartet competitions and taking a groundbreaking tour through China in the early eighties. Their musicality and seamless blending were often praised by critics. However, some of their latest spotlights had less to do with music and more with a sensational court case, which threatened not only the livelihoods but also the instruments of several of the members. Fortunately, a philanthropist stepped in, and Friday's concert confirmed that the group has recovered to display its old aplomb.

Friday night's concert opened with Mozart's "The Hunt" Quartet K.458. The group rendered Mozart's playful music with utmost expressivity, showcasing a well-balanced, cohesive sound, while allowing each instrument to have an individual presence. Although the first violin traditionally plays a dominant role, Ellen Jewett avoided overpowering the rest of the group, while still contributing long charming lines in the *Adagio* and fiery, yet controlled chase motifs in the last movement. Akemi Takayama (second violin in this piece) and Doris Lederer (viola) gave performances which highlighted the deliciously chromatic lines of the inner voices, particularly in the Menuetto and Trio. Founding member and cellist Clyde Shaw also had numerous shining moments, not

only in melodic passages (second movement), but also in accompanimental figures. Another pleasant aspect of the Mozart performance was the balance, which was never treble heavy (as often occurs due to the nature of the music and sometimes players' personalities), thereby allowing the lower voices to speak clearly.

The contrasting part of the program, Shostakovich String Quartet No.5, followed. Before the piece, Shaw explained briefly Shostakovich's musical symbolism which includes a musical spelling of his name. The artists then engaged in a fascinating detail-oriented performance, delivering Shostakovich's austere music with intense lyricism and expressivity. The dark humor, lyrical evocations, and mounting anguish typical of Shostakovich were all vividly depicted. The musicians were not just playing the music onstage, but were living in Shostakovich's bleak emotional realms.

The second half featured a solid and enjoyable rendition of Mozart's String Quintet in C Major, K.515, in the sixth and last installment of the year-long MIT Guest Artist Series celebrating Mozart's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The series featured the complete Mozart viola string quintets, performed by Music and Theatre Arts Professor Marcus A. Thompson (viola) together with six visiting string quartets in turn.

Akemi Takayama played first violin and while her playing sparkled with exuberance, it tended to stick out too much sometimes. Thompson played second viola, arguably the least exciting part, yet his clear articulation and intensity contributed synergistically to the group momentum, the overall rendition sounding fresh, ebullient, and very enjoyable. His sound blended very well in the ensemble, and even if he often played long stretches of repeated notes figurations. The highlights of this piece were the exciting dialogue between first violin and cello (first movement), the whimsically paced conversation between the first violin and first viola (slow movement) and the jovial theme of the rondo, brilliantly handled in all parts.

*The musicians were not just playing the music onstage, but were living in Shostakovich's bleak emotional realms.*

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Emedio's Electrifies

More Than Your Average Italian Place

By Bill Andrews  
and Elizabeth Zakszewski  
STAFF WRITERS

Emedio's  
417 Hanover Street  
North End, Boston  
617-742-7172

The two of us have always loved the North End as a romantic place to go out for a nice dinner. After all, what could be more romantic than stepping into Boston's own Little Italy, with plenty of beautiful and elegant dining areas seen through almost every window? The only problem is, many of the restaurants with the nicest atmosphere also have prices that are far more expensive than a student could afford, even for a special occasion.

That's part of why Emedio's, located right on Hanover Street seemed so appealing. Seeing that the menu was at least in the realm of our budget, and that there wasn't a long line (at 7 p.m. on a Saturday night), the two of us entered to be seated at a cozy table for two by the window. With a nice candlelit table and a view of the pedestrians on the charming street, we had enough romantic setting and then some. It was a pleasant change from MIT's general awfulness.

Probably the main attraction of this restaurant was that there were plenty of unique items on the menu. And we mean unique in the good way, not the "hair cream?" way. At first glance, we saw several entrees of chicken stuffed with other more interesting meats and unexpected vegetables, all prepared in some savory sauces. While these were tempting, loving pasta almost as much as each other, we just could not pass up a pasta dish neither of us had ever seen on any menu in our lives: pumpkin tortellini. The tortellini was definitely a one-of-a-kind experience. Like most of you, we're only used to pumpkin via pie and other sweet pumpkin-flavored desserts. This pasta had the same flavor, and was in fact stuffed with pumpkin meat rather than the usual cheese that tortellini fans know and love. It was satisfying at first, as we ate this spice infused dish as a savory main course, but after eating nearly the whole plate of tortellini, the flavor was almost overwhelming. We would recommend this only to those who really, really like pumpkin, or who don't tend to get sick of a lot of food with the same strong flavor. Or, perhaps, to share with a friend or fiancée.

Now, one of us (we'll leave it as an exercise to the reader which) is a big fan of meat. This person, while sharing in the pumpkin-filled glory, ordered one of the wonderful chicken-stuffed-with-other-meat dishes, the chicken Emedioni. The presentation was truly dazzling: chicken took the center stage on the plate, and was surrounded by potato wedges and large slices of grilled zucchini, squash, tomato, and red peppers, all cut to the same size. It gave us the impression that the chef took pride in his work, and was not satisfied in simply churning out the same standard favorite Italian dishes that you could order in any other North End restaurant. Not only was the food beautiful to look at (and create art out of, if you're into that sort of thing), but it was absolutely scrumptious. The grilled vegetables were delicious, especially with the pleasantly light sauce that covered the chicken, and the chicken itself was, as they say in musical theatre, divine. It was stuffed with prosciutto (Italian cured ham) and, unlike so many of the dishes featuring a combination of meats, each flavor was distinct and well-balanced. The sauce truly brought out the best in both meats, too, leaving both of us salivating just thinking about it.

The service was fine, as would be expected since the small dining room was barely half full as we dined. The crowd did seem to be increasing as we left though, so perhaps that was why our casually friendly and sort-of attentive waiter became less so throughout the evening. The ambience wasn't overtly flashy or showy but still managed to convey just what it needed to, namely Romantic Italian Restaurant.

In the end, the food was definitely not something to shy away from, and the prices make it an affordable (if only occasionally so) night out. We'll chalk this one up as a hidden gem in the North End; come early to avoid the crowds and stay late to avoid a cookie-cutter Italian menu.

Who should use mental health services?

Any student who is having troubles with stress, substance abuse, or mental health issues, should feel free to come to the mental health service at MIT Medical.

Typical mental health issues include difficulties with relationships, family stresses, school stresses, break-ups, anxiety or worry, questions about sexual identity, eating issues and depression. Often these things are affecting the student's ability to do his or her school work or enjoy things that usually are a source of pleasure.

What services does the MIT Mental Health Service provide?

The MIT Mental Health Service works with individuals, couples, groups, and families. Services include evaluation, treatment (both psychotherapy and psychopharmacology), referrals, and urgent care.

The Mental Health Service staff is comprised of a diverse group of clinicians from different disciplines and different approaches to psychotherapy including psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral therapy.

The Mental Health Service offers many different therapy, support, and discussion groups. Mental health clinicians will listen to the needs of students, discuss the various types of treatment available, and make appropriate recommendations.

Is everything in a mental health visit really 100% confidential?

Everything that a student tells a mental health clinician is privileged information. This means that the information cannot be given to any other person without their permission. There are a few exceptions: 1) if the student is in serious danger of harming his or herself or someone else, then the clinician can notify other people in order to prevent harm; 2) if the student is involved in the abuse or neglect of a child or an elderly person, then the clinician is mandated to inform the appropriate agency.

**MIT Mental Health Service**  
MIT Medical, E23-3rd Floor  
Call 617-253-2916 for appointments and info  
Walk-in hours 2-4 pm, Monday-Friday  
for urgent matters

This is one of a series of mental health FAQs developed by SHAC (Student Health Advisory Committee) with input from MIT Medical's Mental Health Service. More questions and answers on mental health issues are available online.

Go to <http://web.mit.edu/medical> to find answers to the following questions:

- ▶ What should I do if I am worried about a friend or think he or she may want to harm his or her self?
- ▶ Sometimes I feel sad, other times overwhelmed but usually I get over it. Would going to MHS be helpful to me?
- ▶ How do I make an appointment?
- ▶ Does it cost anything to use the mental health service at MIT Medical?

To learn more about SHAC membership, visit our website <http://web.mit.edu/medical/student>.



March 2,  
2007

# COMICS

The  
Tech

## FUN

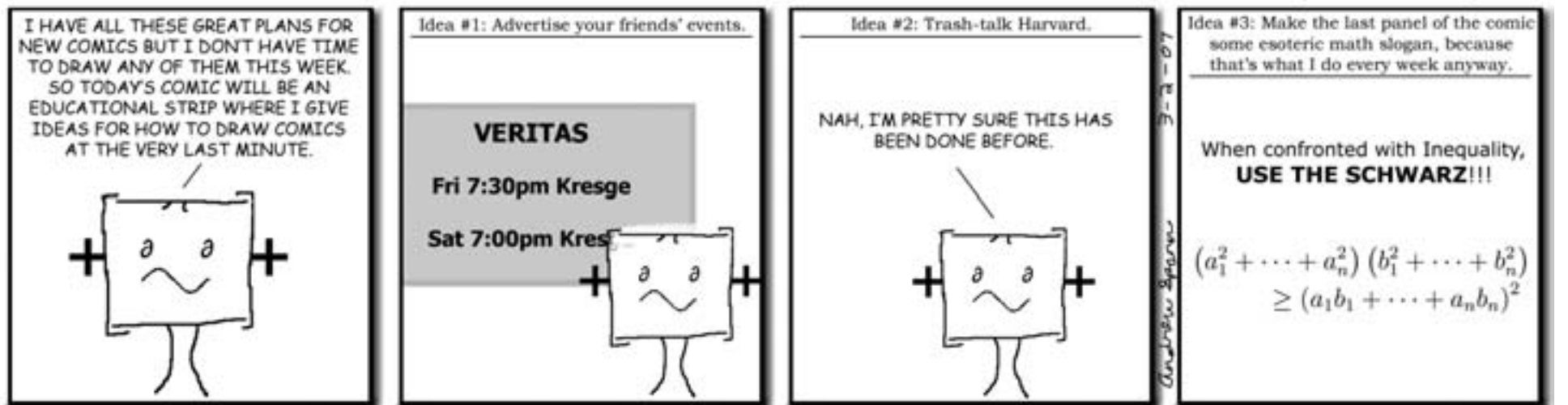
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7

## PAGES



### PROOF OF FALSE

by Andrew Spann



### Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco, G



2007-Feb-28

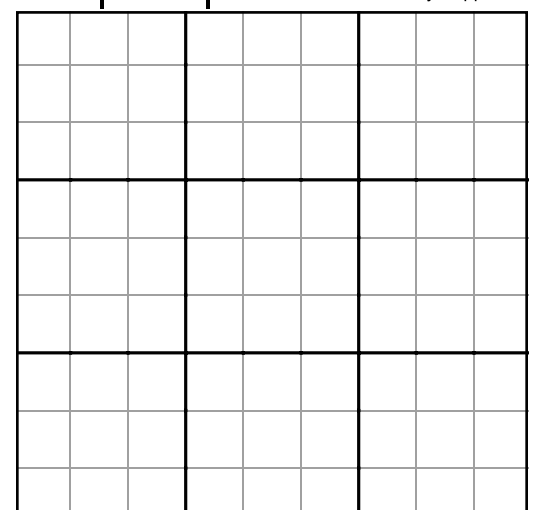
RunBug.com

### Some Assembly Required

by Alex Hornstein



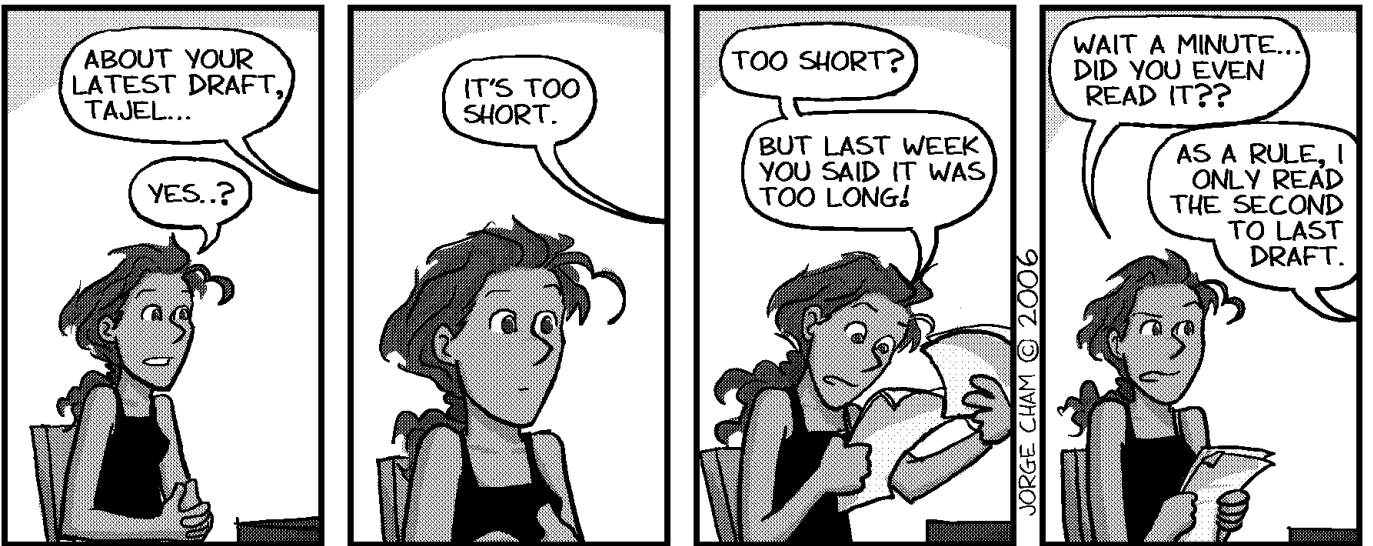
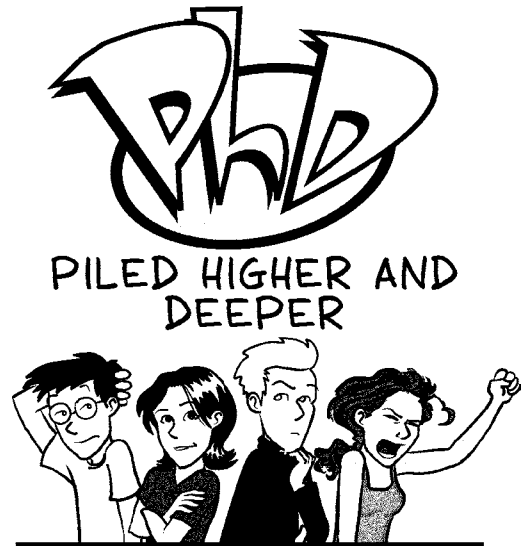
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Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.  
Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 14.

GUSTAV the ANTISQUIRREL

By Scott Burdick  
and Vera Pavel



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Crossword Puzzle  
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MIT CYCLING

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# Meet AlphaDetail

AlphaDetail is an innovative leader in shaping global healthcare R&D and marketing decisions through strategic market insight.

## On Campus Information Session

Date ➔ March 7th

Location ➔ Pratt School, building 5 room 134

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# Alumni, Students Help Pay For Legal Fees

Hackers, from Page 1

[drop] the case and that they were guided, in part, by the MIT administration and the MIT Police," Petersen's attorney, John M. Moscardelli of Peters & Moscardelli, said to *The Boston Globe* on behalf of the students. Heather V. Baer of Sally & Fitch LLP, the attorney for Nawi, said she was unable to comment on the case.

The students had been charged with breaking and entering in the nighttime, with the intent to commit a felony, and trespassing. Additionally, Petersen was charged with possession of burglarious tools for carrying a slide, an L-shaped piece of metal that can be used to open certain doors.

According to the narrative filed with the police report, MIT Police Officers Sean C. Munnely and Duane R. Keegan responded to a burglar alarm in the Faculty Club at approximately 1:50 a.m. on Oct. 22, 2006 and found Brown, Petersen, and Nawi in the kitchen. The Faculty Club is located on the sixth floor of Building E52. The students were found near an open panel in the wall that leads to a crawl space, the narrative states.

The narrative, written by Munnely, states that the elevator used to reach the sixth floor Faculty Club would only take the officers to the fifth floor. The elevators are supposed to be locked so that they will not travel to the sixth floor when the Faculty Club is closed. The narrative also states that there was a visible "no trespassing" sign on the door that opened onto the sixth floor from the stairwell.

Nawi's motion moved to dismiss conflicts with the police's story, stating that the elevator functioned without restriction that night, taking the three students to the sixth floor, and that there were "no signs indicating that access to the sixth floor was not permitted after-hours."

The case raised concern amongst some in the MIT community who felt that the students were being brought to court for an activity that in the past had been handled within the Institute.

However, according to Undergraduate Association President Andrew T. Lukmann '07, who said that he had spoken with MIT administrators, there is a strong consensus that what happened in this case is "by no means setting any kind of precedent."

Lukmann said that he had also spoken with Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict about working with the MIT Police in the future to assemble clear guidelines on how to handle these situations in the future. Lukmann said he has plans to set up a meeting with DiFava for next week.

Students and alumni involved in the hacking community have been helping to pay the legal bills of the three students. "We've managed to raise \$10,327 through a combination of donations from 20 alumni and a chocolate fundraiser," Stanley R. Zonarotti SM '89 said in an e-mail. According to Zonarotti, \$1,877 was raised at the Feb. 20 chocolate fundraiser, which 100 students and alumni attended. "We still expect there will be another \$2,500 of legal bills."

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\*Latke – A fried potato pancake  
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**Professors  
for the Hamentashen**

.....

**David Jerison**  
Mathematics  
**Michael Ouelette**  
Theater  
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Brain and Cognitive Sciences

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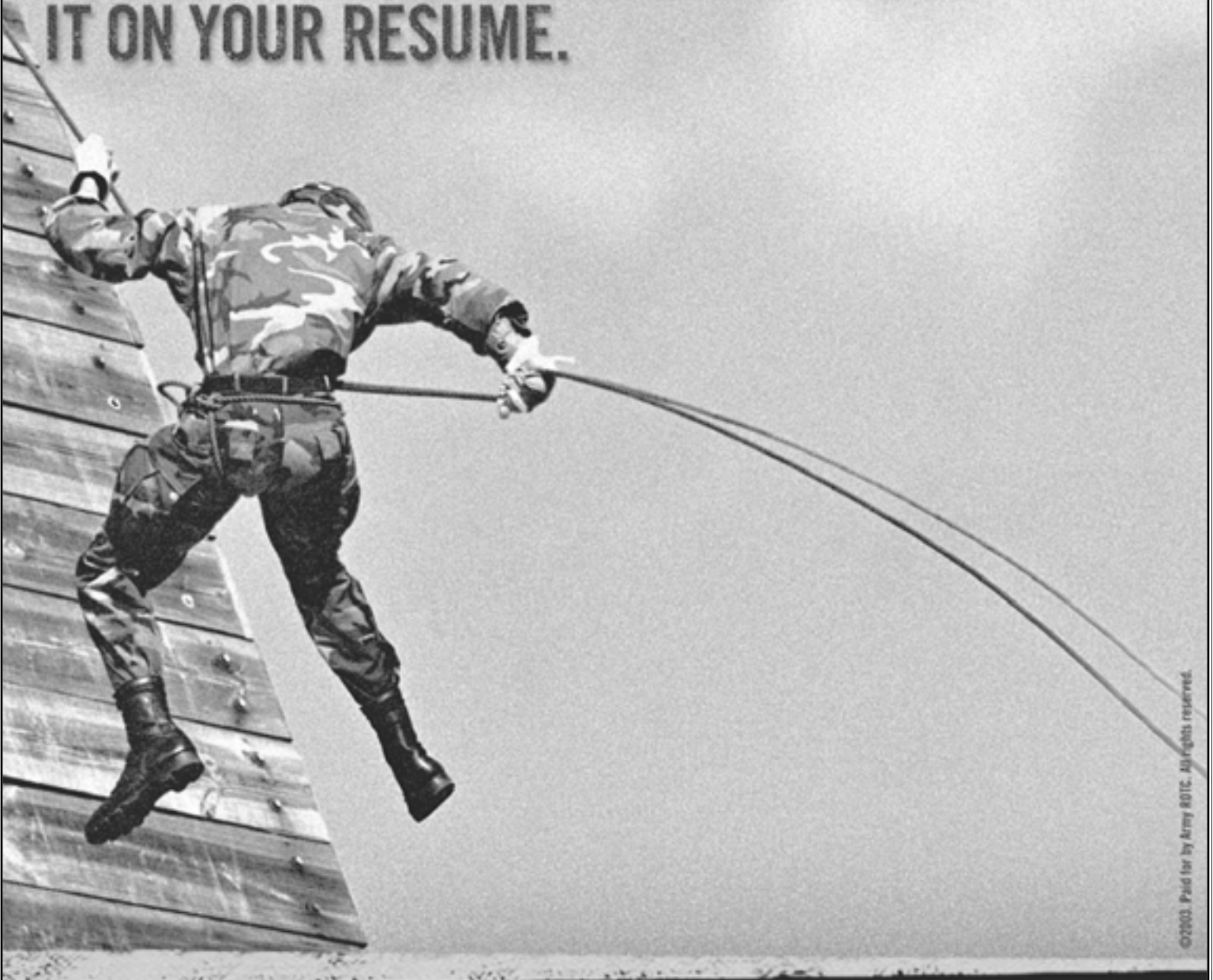
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# Ethics Panels Found to Curtail Academic Freedom

By Patricia Cohen  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ever since the gross mistreatment of poor black men in the Tuskegee Syphilis Study came to light three decades ago, the federal government has required ethics panels to protect people from being used as human lab rats in biomedical studies. Yet now, faculty and graduate students across the country increasingly complain that these panels have spun out of control, curtailing academic freedom and interfering with research in history, English and other subjects that poses virtually no danger to anyone.

The panels, known as Institutional Review Boards, are required at all institutions that receive research money from any one of 17 federal agencies and are charged with signing off in advance on almost all studies that involve a living person, whether a former president of the United States or your own grandmother. This results, critics say, is unnecessary and sometimes absurd demands.

Among the incidents cited in recent report by the American Association of University Professors are a review board asking a linguist studying a preliterate tribe to “have the subjects read and sign a consent form,” and a board forbidding a white student studying ethnicity to interview African-American PhD students “because it might be traumatic for them.”

“It drives historians crazy,” said Joshua Freeman, the director of the City University’s graduate history program. “It’s a medical model, it’s inappropriate and ignorant.” One student currently waiting for a board to approve his study of a strike in the 1970s, Mr. Freeman said, had to submit a list of questions he was going to ask workers and union officials, file signed consent forms, describe the locked location where he would keep all his notes, take a test to certify he understood the standards.

Review boards, first created in 1974, were initially restricted to biomedical research. In 1981 the regulations were revised to cover all research that involves “human subjects” and is designed to contribute to “generalizable knowledge.”

Yet precisely how to interpret these rules has largely been left to each re-

view board — 5,564 in all. And while the regulations apply specifically to research that gets federal dollars, many colleges use Institutional Review Boards to monitor all research, no matter where the funds come from. This system of helter-skelter enforcement, critics say, has no meaningful oversight and no appeal process.

Debbie S. Dougherty and Michael W. Kramer, two former members of a review board at the University of Missouri, Columbia, who wanted to study review boards, had to first get their own board’s O.K. Although they thought their project was exempt from board approval, the only entity authorized to make that decision is the board itself, and the only appeal if the researchers had rejected the ruling is also the board.

Bernard A. Schwetz, director of the federal Office for Human Research Protections, which administers the regulations, acknowledges that the guidelines covering the boards’ actions have not been clear enough and says he intends to make public new proposed guidelines before the end of the year. Still, he said the priority is to protect human subjects and dismissed the notion that most nonmedical research carries few dangers. “Obviously the balance is very subtle,” he said. “I think it’s naïve to say there isn’t any risk.”

But to many faculty and graduate students, review boards are like a blister that gets worse with every step. Those outside of the hard sciences say the legitimate concerns over ethics and safety are largely irrelevant to most of their research.

According to a stack of reports, symposiums and studies by academic associations and scholars, the system’s “mission creep” is having a pernicious and widespread effect on humanities and social science research. Legal scholars also argue the boards violate the First Amendment.

The growing number of complaints in recent years apparently stems from an overall crackdown after a series of medical-research blunders beginning with the death of an 18-year-old in a gene-therapy trial at the University of Pennsylvania in 1999.

A board is required to have a minimum of five members, including one

nonscientist and one person unaffiliated with the institution, said Pat El-Hinnawy, spokeswoman for the Office for Human Research Protections. Larger universities often have several boards. Members are generally appointed for limited terms.

When Robert L. Johnson, the review board administrator for Appalachian State University, talks to students, he said he starts off by asking, “If you were going to participate in a study, what are the things you would like to know?”

The usual responses, he said, are: What are you doing? Will you use my name? Who’s responsible if I get hurt? What’s in it for me? Making sure those questions get answered, said Mr. Johnson, “that’s the purpose of the IRB.”

Mr. Johnson said his board met monthly and reviewed approximately 200 projects a year; most are routine, require what he called minor changes and get approved within two weeks. About 30 to 40 require full board review, which takes at least six weeks.

Timothy Wilson, a social psychologist at the University of Virginia, now in his second term as a member of Virginia’s nonmedical review board, said that “IRB’s naturally become cautious,” but that given the constraints, “I think our board works extremely well.”

In the past year, discussions about what some call the “IRB wars” have sprung up in specialty publications like The Chronicle of Higher Education, conferences, scholarly journals and blogs. Although research proposals are rarely rejected, scholars argue that the requested changes in the wording of questions and consent forms can alter the nature of the study and scare off participants.

Bernadette McCauley, a historian at Hunter College, said she ran into trouble a couple of years ago when she tried to help students working with the Museum of the City of New York on an exhibition about Washington Heights. She asked if a few nuns who had grown up in that neighborhood and whom she knew from her research would talk to the students. And that, Ms. McCauley said, was “when things went haywire.”

The review board discovered the request and lambasted Ms. McCau-

ley for failing to consult with it, she said. The board also demanded proof that previous research for a completed book did not use any archival material involving living people and banned her from doing any research.

Michael Arena, the director of communications at City University, said in an e-mail message that Ms. McCauley initially refused to send in a “brief description” of her research so that board members could determine whether federal regulations covered her work. Ms. McCauley hired a lawyer and after six months of negotiations, the board agreed that her research was exempt.

Ms. Dougherty, an associate professor of communications at Missouri, said review boards were needed because “historically, social science has done things abhorrent to human subjects.” Unfortunately the current process “obliterates a lot of research,” she said, because untenured faculty and graduate students on a timetable cannot afford to spend months waiting for approval. So, for example, “instead of talking to people who are victims of violence, you might look at newspaper articles,” she said, echoing a common complaint that the requirements cause academics to steer clear of controversial topics. Research decisions “should be guided by science,” she said, “not whether or not it’s going to get through the board.”

Ms. Dougherty said she was willing to speak openly, unlike many

graduate students and faculty, because she had tenure.

Professors also say that some board directives, like destroying interview recordings and notes after publication to ensure confidentiality, violate accepted scholarly practices. “There probably will be litigation,” predicted Philip Hamburger, a professor at Columbia Law School who argues that prior approval violates the First Amendment. “There are potentially hundreds of thousands of plaintiffs.”

Mr. Schwetz said there was no chance that some subjects like oral history and journalism would be altogether excluded from review, as some academic organizations have urged. “If we were just to say, ‘Assume you don’t have to take them before an IRB,’ I think we would regret that,” he said. But he said the new guidelines “will give a lot of examples and will give more guidance on how to make the decision on what is research and what is not.”

Some critics fault the universities, placing blame either with overzealous panels or with university administrations that have not done enough to differentiate between research that receives federal money and research that does not.

Mr. Freeman of City University said that within the humanities “most faculty members don’t know these rules exist.” He added, “If they in fact followed these rules, the whole IRB system would grind to a halt.”

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## BOSTON CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Sunday, March 25, 2007 at 7:30pm  
Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge

Schumann	Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 110
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Yotam Haber	<i>Purity Guaranteed</i> (2002)
Jacob Cooper	<i>Not Just Another Piece for Solo Bass Drum</i> (2005)
Lisa Bielawa	"Synopsis #5: He Figures Out What Clouds Mean" (2007)
Allen Vizzutti	<i>Cascades</i>
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# Kastner to Broaden Science Department

## Dean to Include More Women, Minorities

Kastner, from Page 1

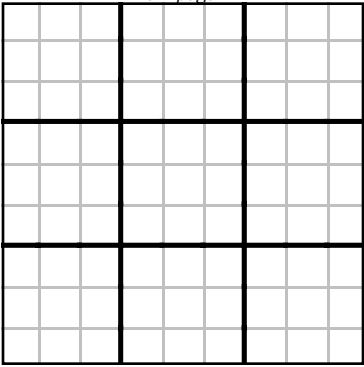
make this one of his top priorities. "The most important job of the dean of science is to make sure that we create the very best faculty we can. That means having more diverse faculty — one of the biggest challenges — but at the same time, maintain very high standards." In addition to broadening the science faculty, Kastner also plans to work on the energy initiative President Hockfield announced. "I think that President Hockfield's initiatives are the just the right things for MIT," said Kastner, "I would like to see the School of Science doing more along those lines, and new ideas will be encouraged in that direction."

During Silbey's reign as dean,

Silbey hired over 80 faculty and appointed four new department heads. According to Silbey, one of these new heads was Maria Zuber, the first woman department head in the School of Science, in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. Silbey also reappointed two department heads, including Kastner. In the School of Science, Silbey began many efforts to facilitate science research by completing the renovation of the chemistry department space and building new space for the neurosciences and physics. He also launched other major research enterprises, including the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, the Broad Institute, and the Magellan Telescope in Chile.

## Solution to Sudoku

from page 7



## Solution to Crossword

from page 8

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Thursday, March 1

7:30 PM, Stata Center 32-123

## Francis Collins

Author—*The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*  
Head—National Human Genome Research Institute

## *Belligerents or Brothers?*

*Are Science and Christian Faith at Odds?*

Friday, March 2

7:30 PM, Kresge Auditorium

## Ian Hutchinson

Head—Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering, MIT

## *Living Machines*

*Can Robots Become Human?*

Saturday, March 3

7:00 PM, Kresge Auditorium

## Rodney Brooks

Director—Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, MIT

## Rosalind Picard

Founder and Director—Affective Computing Research Group, MIT

## Afternoon Events

Thursday, March 1

12:00, E51-345

## John Brandon

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Saturday, March 3

12:00, 3-270

## Annette Kim

Assistant Professor—Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

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SPORTS

MIT Men's Swimming  
2nd to Coast Guard in  
Final Meet of Season

By Jeff Lemieux  
SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

The men's swimming and diving team grabbed second at the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) championship meet on Sunday evening, behind last year's champion Coast Guard.

Coast Guard racked up an impressive 990.5 points to put it well ahead of MIT's 856 and Springfield's 724.5.

Rookie sensation Rastislav Racz '10 provided the highlight of the weekend for the Engineers by smashing the NEWMAC open, NEWMAC Championship, pool and Institute records in the 200-yard breaststroke. By clocking in at 2:05.07, the Bratislava, Slovakia, native outdistanced his closest competitor by over six seconds, while breaking the previous MIT mark by over three seconds. The time was also good enough for an NCAA provisional cut and earned him a national ranking of ninth in the event.

Craig M. Edwards '07 notched Tech's other individual victory on the final day of competition, touching the wall at an NCAA "B" cut time of 1:52.20 in the 200-yard backstroke to push him up to tenth in the country in the event. Edwards' time was just .07 seconds off the pool record, set by the Cardinal and Gray's Matthieu Fuzellier G last year.

The Engineers put a stranglehold

on the 200-yard backstroke event by grabbing third (Kalvin D. Kao '08) and fourth (Matthew G. Angle '07) place finishes as well.

The 200-yard butterfly proved to be another important event for MIT, as Deke Hu '09 picked up a second-place finish with a time of 1:56.10, while John R. Walk '10 notched fourth by touching the wall at 2:00.99.

Tech received great performances from its relay teams throughout the weekend, and the 400-yard freestyle relay squad continued that trend by capping the competition with a third-place finish. The group of Edwards, Peter J. Wellings '09, Jeffrey Y. Zhou '10 and Luke R. Cummings '10 clocked in at 3:08.01, good enough for an NCAA "B" cut.

Other high finishes by MIT swimmers include fourth-place in the 1650-yard freestyle by Harrison K. Hall '08; fifth, sixth, and eighth place finishes in the 100-yard freestyle by Cummings, Wellings, and Zhou; and a seventh place finish by Daniel G. Lopez-Braus '09 in the three-meter diving competition.

Head coach Dawn B. Gerken was very proud of her team, which pulled together to earn MIT's first runner-up finish in the NEWMAC Championships since 2004.

"It was just a fantastic weekend overall," she said. "I'm really excited about the way the team came together over the course of the weekend. All 28 members of this team really contributed to this second-place finish."

Springfield Edges MIT Women  
In Conference Swimming Meet

By Jeff Lemieux  
SPORTS INFORMATION ASSISTANT

For the second time in three days, diver Doria M. Holbrook '08 broke Institute and conference records in the diving portion of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Championships, but it wasn't enough for MIT to hold off Springfield College, as the Pride overtook the Engineers on the final day of competition to claim its seventh straight title.

Springfield finished with 812.5 points, while the Engineers closed in second-place for the eighth straight year with 717.5 points. Host Wellesley College claimed the third spot with a point total of 621.

Holbrook, who set a NEWMAC one-meter diving record on Friday, recorded an astonishing 553.30 in prelims of the three-meter before easily winning the event with a 514.85 in the finals. The old MIT record was a 464.30 set by Lori A. Blackwelder '85 and the highest previous conference mark had been 533.60.

However, the event's importance to Tech's point total was erased by the impressive Springfield divers, who claimed the next three spots after Holbrook. Erin White, Michelle Reggio and Melissa Nelson finished 2-3-4, respectively.

MIT had another record-breaker that evening, as Nicole M. O'Keeffe '09 swam the 200-yard breaststroke in 2:26.54, not only good enough for second-place and an NCAA "B" cut, but also to set a new Institute mark. O'Keeffe surely would have grabbed the win in the event if not for the amazing swim of the Pride's Moira Price, whose time of 2:20.95 reached the NCAA "A" cut.

The Cardinal and Gray did claim two victories in "B" consolation finals on the last day of swimming. First, Stephanie M. Brown '10 touched the wall ahead of all competitors in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:17.21.

Then, in the final event of the competition, Tech's "B" 400-yard freestyle relay team of Abigail M. Clark '08,

Jacquelyn M. Nowicke '08, Ashley E. Pinchinat '10 and Jessica A. Harpole '07 clocked in at 3:42.57 for the win.

Katherine C. Thornton '07, ranked fourth in the country in the 1650-yard freestyle, placed second in the event with a time of 18:02.44. Springfield's Emily Sheahan was the impressive winner, finishing with an NCAA "B" cut time of 17:45.79.

Head coach Dawn B. Gerken singled out her graduating seniors and graduate students for special praise after what was their final competition for the Cardinal and Gray. Katrina M. Cornell G and Stephanie A. Sidelko '07, Harpole, and Thornton were all praised for their hard work and dedication to MIT swimming and diving.

"I just want to thank all of our graduating athletes for everything that they did for this program over the years that they were a part of this team," she said. "They were truly a fun group, and working with them was one of the most rewarding experiences of my coaching career. All four girls helped this program grow tremendously and their contributions will be missed."

Holbrook NEWMAC Diver of the Year,  
Bartolotta, Bracht Get Hoops Honors

By Travis Johnson  
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second time in her three years at MIT, Doria M. Holbrook '08 was named the best diver in her conference.

The New England Women's and Men's Conference (NEWMAC) "Diver of the Year" award adds to Holbrook's already impressive pile of trophies that include an NCAA national championship in 2005, an NCAA national runner-up in 2006, and the 2005 NEWMAC Diver of the Year award.

Holbrook will compete at the 2007 NCAA Division III championship meet next weekend in Houston, Texas.

Basketball grabs postseason awards

Erich W. Bracht '10 received the NEWMAC award for Rookie of the Year after an outstanding first season full of double-doubles and games

played without rest.

Bracht averaged 13 points and nine rebounds in 36 minutes a game, got 10 double-doubles in the team's 27 games, and set an MIT record with a 62.7 percent field goal percentage.

James M. Bartolotta '09, last season's Rookie of the Year, was named to the All-Conference First-Team and placed second in Player of the Year voting.

Bartolotta racked up big numbers in all statistical categories, leading the Engineers in points (21.2), assists (4.3), steals (1.9), blocks (1.0), and minutes played (36.7). He also led the conference in scoring, free throw shooting percentage (86.6 percent), and led the nation in free throws made.

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, March 3, 2007

Men's Tennis vs. Brandeis University and SUNY Brockport  
11:00 a.m., J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble  
Women's Gymnastics vs. Westchester University  
1:00 p.m., duPont Gymnasium  
Women's Tennis vs. Bates College 3:00 p.m., J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble

Sunday, March 4, 2007

Pistol, USA Shooting Open Air 11:00 a.m., duPont Athletic Center

Monday, March 5, 2007

Men's Tennis vs. Gordon College 4:00 p.m., J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble



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